



United States Attorney's Office  
District of Columbia

Ronald C. Machen Jr.  
United States Attorney

---

## PRESS RELEASE

---

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Friday, April 23, 2010

**USAO Public Affairs**

(202) 514-6933

[www.usdoj.gov/usao/dc](http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/dc)

### **DISTRICT MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO STABBING HIS MOTHER IN THE CHEST**

WASHINGTON - A 20-year-old District of Columbia man, Makeva Liggins, has pled guilty to Assault with Intent to Kill for the January 24, 2010, stabbing of his mother inside of a Southeast Washington, D.C., apartment, U.S. Attorney Ronald Machen announced today. Liggins entered his guilty plea late yesterday before the Honorable Ronna L. Beck in the Superior Court of the District of Columbia. Liggins faces a likely sentence of 36 to 84 months of incarceration under the Voluntary Sentencing Guidelines when he is sentenced on July 20, 2010.

According to the government's evidence, on January 24, 2010, at approximately 4:30 p.m., the 20-year-old defendant argued with the victim, his 57-year-old mother, over cornbread. The argument took place at the victim's apartment. The defendant went to the kitchen, retrieved a knife, followed the victim into the bathroom, and stabbed the victim in the center of her chest. Afterward, the defendant said to her, "I told you I would kill you." The defendant fled the apartment. Members of the Metropolitan Police Department arrived at the apartment shortly thereafter. They found the victim on the floor bleeding from her chest. The victim was rushed to the hospital where she underwent, among other things, open-heart surgery to repair damage to her heart from the stabbing. Members of the Metropolitan Police Department investigated, located the defendant at another relative's home, and placed him under arrest.

In announcing the guilty plea, U.S. Attorney Machen commended Metropolitan Police Department Detective Howard Howland, the lead detective on the case, as well as Detective Gabriel Truby, Officer Uthman Lockett, Officer Edwin Espinosa, Officer Zachary Lynch, Officer James Mitchell, Officer Johnny Hernandez, Officer Valiant Washington, Officer Adrian Lancaster, Officer Eric Hampton, and Officer Kenneth Bryant. U.S. Attorney Machen also expressed his appreciation to legal assistant Nicole Lee and paralegal Kristy Penny for their support in the investigation of the case; Victim Advocate Shauna Moore for her compassionate assistance to the victim; and Assistant U.S. Attorney Courtney Saleski, who investigated the case.

###